

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2110

UNCLAS LAGOS 11525

USDOC PASS TO MEPD

E.O. 11652 : NA

TAGS : BEXP, NI

SUBJ : MAJOR PROJECT: HOUSING FOR NIGERIAN ARMY

REF : STATE 259669

1. WITH PURCHASES OF AMERICAN TRUCKS (ESTIMATED VALUE OF TRANSACTION EXCEEDING 100 MILLION DOLLARS) VIRTUALLY COMPLETED, NIGERIAN MOD NOW WISHES TO MOVE FORWARD ON HOUSING FOR ARMY.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL, PRIME TASK OF CONSULTANT WOULD BE TO PLAN AND DESIGN OVERALL MILITARY HOUSING PROGRAM, AND RECOMMEND CONTRACTORS TO MOD FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK. MOD WOULD THEN SELECT CONSTRUCTION FIRM(S) WHICH MAY BE FOREIGN OR NIGERIAN OR MIX OF BOTH. CONSULTANT WOULD OVERSEE AND MONITOR PROGRAM. DEPENDING ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONSULTANT, CONSTRUCTION MIGHT BE PREFAB, MODULAR, WHOLLY LOCAL CONSTRUCTION OR COMBINATION. SITES FOR MILITARY COMPLEXES WOULD BE SPREAD AROUND NIGERIA. EACH COMPLEX WOULD BE A COMMUNITY WITH BARRACKS, FAMILY QUARTERS, TRAINING, STORAGE, RECREATIONAL, TRANSPORT, HOSPITAL AND RELATED FACILITIES.

3. MOD MUCH APPRECIATES INTEREST OF SEVERAL US FIRMS MENTIONED IN REFTEL. QUARTERMASTER GENERAL AND STAFF DESIRE INTERVIEW 3 FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN CONSULTATION/PLANNING AND 3 FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION. REASON FOR THIS DIVISION IS MOD CONCERN THAT CONSULTING FIRM WHICH ALSO DOES UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSTRUCTION WOULD TEND TO FAVOR ITSELF IN CONSTRUCTION PHASE

OF PROJECT AND MIGHT NOT BE IMPARTIAL ADVISOR AND MONITOR.

WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT LEADING US FIRMS OFTEN HAVE CONSULTATION, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION COMPONENTS, BUT MOD WISHES TO HOLD TO ITS SUGGESTED APPROACH AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

4. BECAUSE OF COMMITMENTS THAT WILL TAKE QMG AND DECISION-MAKING OFFICERS OUT OF COUNTRY FROM LATE NOVEMBER TO EARLY JANUARY, REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN FIRMS SHOULD NOT COME TO LAGOS IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. MOD INSTEAD PROPOSES VISITS TO US FIRMS IN US DURING APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PERIOD IN MID-JANUARY 1976.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING DOC ACTION: (1) MEPD SHOULD SELECT FIRMS IN ACCORDANCE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WITH MOD REQUEST DESCRIBED IN PARA 3 AND (2) IN COORDINATION WITH FIRMS, ARRANGE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ALLOWING ARMY DELEGATION TO VISIT COMPANY HEADQUARTERS AND SITES OF ACTUAL PROJECTS. SHAPING OF MEANINGFUL SCHEDULE UNDERSTANDABLY DIFFICULT IF ARMY HOLDS TO TIGHT TIME FRAME OF ONE WEEK. EMBASSY WILL THUS TRY TO HAVE DELEGATION EXTEND ITS JANUARY VISIT IN US BY ADDITIONAL 3-7 DAYS.

6. PLEASE KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS AS MOD WANTS DATA AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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